



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Tonopah Field Office

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http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field.html

In Reply Refer To:

N-88360, N-88368

Nev 062889

2800 (NVB0200)

MAR 09 2011

Dear Interested Parties:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tonopah Field Office, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) which analyzes the impacts of a proposed Right-of-Way (ROW) and amendment, located near Beatty, Nevada.

The EA assesses the impacts of a proposal by Valley Electric Association, Inc. (VEA), to build a new power distribution line which would upgrade its current distribution system to provide a more reliable power source to its present customers along the current route and to the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR). The United States Air Force is collaborating with VEA to build the facilities. The BLM would grant a ROW to VEA to build and operate a 20.5 mile long, 24.9 kilovolt overhead distribution line from the Beatty Substation located on private land in T. 12 S., R. 47 E., to the cutoff at Tolicha Peak, located at T. 9 S., R. 46 E., Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada, for the purpose of providing power to the NTTR.

The construction of the power line would begin at the Beatty Substation located in the Town of Beatty; heading northeast along the uplands, veering west of the Amargosa River area, to rejoin the existing route north of Springdale. The line continues northwesterly, paralleling with the existing power line to its final termination point at the Air Force facilities located on NTTR. The project area would be mostly situated on land administered by the BLM.

In addition to the distribution line, VEA would install an optical ground wire (OPGW) on the proposed distribution line. The power line and fiber optic line would insure the Air Force a more reliable power source in the future for Air Force operations on the Electronic Combat Range. This Range is part of the NTTR, Nellis Air Force Base. The installation of the OPGW would not require new right-of-way as this line would be installed on the existing transmission structures.

The EA will be available for a 30-day public comment period. Written comments on this EA will be accepted at the above address until 4:30 p.m., April 8, 2011. The EA can be viewed on the BLM Battle Mountain District website at: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field/blm_information/national_environmental.html.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment — including your personal identifying information — may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have any questions or to obtain a hard copy of this document, please contact Alan Buehler, Supervisory Geologist at the above address or at (775) 482-7800.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Seley
Field Manager